

Joanne McCartney
Police and Crime Committee

20 December 2013

MOPAC21112013MS

Dear Joanne,

Mental Health and Policing

Thank you for inviting me to the PCC thematic meeting on 21st November 2013 that focused on Mental Health and Policing. You requested that I provide details on The Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) response to the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Mental Health and Policing.

As I set out during the Committee meeting, Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) formally responded to the Independent Commission on Mental Health and Policing in June 2013. In that letter, the DMPC thanked Lord Adebowale for his proposals to aid change and provide solutions to a range of issues associated with mental health and policing.

In response to the 2 key recommendations for the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) the DMPC set out the following:

Recommendation 2: The MPS should include a mental health-specific indicator as part of performance measurement of the 20% MOPAC target for improving public confidence

"The identification and measurement of underlying and contributory factors for public confidence is a complicated issue and identifying the right accountability mechanisms for this issue is something on which we need to carefully reflect. I acknowledge the spirit within which the recommendation has been made, however, in my view it would be overly prescriptive to set a crude target. My intention is to continue our engagement with key partners including the MPS and NHS England, London Region, to give this recommendation further consideration.

MOPAC will be playing a central role in ensuring that we get much better integration of services. This will ensure appropriate buy-in and commitment from relevant partners whilst guarding against setting a target that might produce a perverse outcome".

Recommendation 3: MOPAC should hold the MPS to account for identification and delivery of a mental health specific performance indicator within the 20% MOPAC target

"It is, of course, MOPAC's role to hold the MPS to account for delivery. However, I am equally aware that in order for the MPS to meet this proposed target, we need the expertise and involvement of other partners to ensure there is proper join up in service delivery to support the MPS in its work, and this will be a fundamental part of future discussions".

As agreed by all present during the Committee meeting, good progress has been made by the MPS and partners since the Commission reported. MOPAC plays a key role in both challenging and holding the MPS to account and is a key member of the Mental Health Partnership Board.

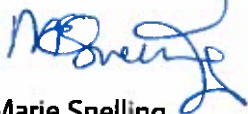
In addition, the DMPC has been very clear on the need to focus energies on integrating services and MOPAC has taken a key leadership role in this regard. As an example, MOPAC is working with NHS England London Region and the MPS to develop a street triage pilot to:

- Reduce the number of detentions made under s136 of the Mental Health Act 1983;
- Reduce the amount of time police officers spend dealing with incidents involving people with mental illness;
- Ensure that people suffering from mental illness are referred to appropriate services that give them the support they need.

At a strategic level, the DMPC has held meetings with partners across the health and justice system in relation to mental health. It was through discussions with NHS England, London region he agreed to develop a joint strategy for health in the justice system. This is currently being developed.

A lot has been achieved in the last 6 months and MOPAC is committed to continuing to play a key role in ensuring that mental health is truly a shared responsibility and that further progress is made by the MPS and partners in relation to key issues.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Snelling
Director of Integrated Offender Management, Programmes and Neighbourhoods
Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime